

Message Text

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43

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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PINT, PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: 9TH SED CONGRESS: PARTY ELECTIONS AND HONECKER'S CLOSING

REMARKS

REF: BERLIN 5944, BERLIN 5887

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SUMMARY: THE SED 9TH PARTY CONGRESS ON MAY 22 WITH

CLOSING REMARKS BY SECRETARY GENERAL ERICH HONECKER IN WHICH HE REITERATED GDR SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND PRO-LETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM AND RELEASED THE NAMES OF THE NEWLY ELECTED SED POLITBURO. END SUMMARY.

1 . ERICH HONECKER CLOASED THE SED NINTH PARTY CONGRSS ON MAY 22 BY ANNOUNCING HIS OWN NEW TITLE AS "SECRETARY GENERAL" OF THE SED AS WELL AS THE SED POLITUBURO ELECTED EARLIER IN THE DAY. NEW FACES IN THE POLITBURO ARE SECURITY MINISTER ERICH MIELKE, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE BERLIN DISTRICT KONRAD NAUMANN, AND HALLE DISTRICT FIRST SECRETARY WERNER FELFE. NEWLY ELECTED POLITBURO CANDIDATES ARE FREE GERMAN YOUTH (FDJ) FIRST SECRETARY EGON KRENZ, CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY HARST DOHLUS, AND FIRST SECRETARY OF THE COTTBUS DISTRICT WERNER WALDE.

2. IN HIS AT TIMES EMOTIONAL CLOSING REMARKS, HONECKER STRESSED CONTINUITY IN SED POLICIES, THE SED'S TOTAL ALLEGIANCE TO MOSCOW, SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENS, PARTICULARLY IN LATIN AMERICAN, AT SEVERAL POINTS, PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM. FOR HONECKER THE SED'S FUTURE DIRECTION WAS CLEARLY LAID OUT: CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT COURSE IN FIRM ALLIANCE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. WHILE RECEIVING A RESOUNDING OVATION FROM ASSEMBLED DELEGATES UPON ANNOUNCING THAT HE HAD BECOME SECRETARY GENERAL HONECKER REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THE " SCIENTIFIC AND OBJECTIVE" CHARACTER OF SED LEADERSHIP, GDR TELEVISION COMMENTATORS REPORTING ON HONECKER'S NEW TITLE REFERRED TO HIM SIMPLY AS " AN EXPERIENCED FUNCTIONARY IN THE MOVEMENT". WITHOUT FURTHER EMBELLISHMENT.

3. HONECKER'S CLOSING WORDS ON NATIONAL IBERATION MOVEMENTS GAVE PRIMACY TO LATIN AMERICA, WITH HONECKER ASSURING GDR SUPPORT FOR CHILE, URUGUARY AND ALL OF LATIN AMERICA BEFORE TURNING TO SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND THE MIDDLE EAST, AND FINALLY , ANGOLA.

4. IN HIS REMAKRSK, HONECKER CALLED FOR UNIFIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION AND PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM. HONECKER REFERRED TO THE SED AS A " COMBAT UNIT" OF THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT, A PHRASE THAT BY NOW HAS BECOME AN ELEMENT OF SED LITANY. AFTER THE " INTERNATIONAL" HAD BEEN SUNG, HONECKER EMBRACED SUSLOV, WHO HAD SAT THROUGH IT ALL.

5. COMMENT: HONECKER WAS CONFIDENT AND FIRMLY IN CONTROL ON THE LAST DAY OF THE CONGRESS AND SPOKE WITH

CONSIDERABLE EMOTION OF THE GDR'S CLOSE TIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM. THE HINT OF NERVOUSNESS AND TIGHTNESS THAT ACCOMPANIED HIS OPENING DAY REPORT WERE GONE BY THE TIME HONECKER ADDRESSED THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE CONGRESS. THE OVATION HE RECEIVED AT THE END OF THE CONGRESS SEEMED A GENUINE EXPRESSION OF STRONG SUPPORT, AT LEAST AMONG THE 2,500 ASSEMBLED DELEGATES. THROUGHOUT, THE CONGRESS HAD CONDUCTED ITSELF IN A DIGNIFIED AND BUSINESSLIKE FASHION.

6. IT APPEARS THAT SEVERAL OF THE POLITBURO PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCED ON MAY 22 TOOK PLACE AS MUCH BY FUNCTION AS BY PERSONALITY, AND THE CHANGES BROUGHT TO LIGHT SOME THEMES STRESSED AT THE CONGRESS. THAT ERICH MIELKE, AN UNATTRACTIVE AND CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE WHOM THE SED CHOSE TO KEEP LARGELY OUT OF SIGHT DURING THE CONGRESS, SHOULD BE PROMOTED TO FULL POLITBURO STATUS IS YET ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE SED'S CURRENT PREOCCUPATION WITH SECURITY. THE PROMOTION OF BERLIN FIRST SECRETARY KONRAD NAUMANN MAKES SENSE IN TERMS OF AMBITIOUS SED PLANS TO DEVELOP EAST BERLIN INTO A WORLD CAPITAL OVER THE NEXT DECADE. AND FDJ FIRST SECRETARY EGO KRENZ'S RISE TO POLITBURO CANDIDATE STATUS REFLECTS EX-FDJ HEAD HONECKER'S POLICY OF PROMOTING THE FDJ AND MAKING IT ATTRACTIVE AS A VEHICLE TO PARTY LEADERSHIP.

7. THE COMPOSITION OF THE SED POLITBURO IS AS FOLLOWS:

A) FULL MEMBERS:

HERMANN AXEN
FRIEDRICH EBERT
WERNER FELFE
GERHARD GRUENEBERG
KURT HAGER
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HEINZ HOFFMANN
ERICH HONECKER
WERNER KROLIKOWSKI
WERNER LAMBERZ
ERICH MIELKE
GUENTER MITTAG
ERICH MUECKENGERGER
KONRAD NAUMANN
ALFRED NEUMANN
ALBERT NORDEN
HORST SINDERMAN
WILLI STOPH
TARRY TISCH
PAUL VERNER
B) CANDIDATE MEMBERS:

HORST DOHLUS
JOACHIM HERRMANN
WERNER JAROWINSKY
EGON KRENZ
GUENTHER KLEIBER
INGE LANGE
MARGARETE MUELLER
GERHARD SCHUERER
WERNER WALDE
GROVE

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